



First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs)

Hosted by the USDA Forest Service

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

May 1, 2015—11:00 a.m. (ET)



FFACCTs Highlights – Opening remarks by Steve McNulty, Director, USDA South East Regional Climate Hub (SERCH)

Washington Office (Research and Development) Update

Karen Dante, Climate Change Fellow, Climate Change Advisor's Office (CCAO)

- **Consolidation between Climate Change Advisor's Office and Sustainable Operations:** The CCAO and Sustainable Operations offices will be merged into one office at the beginning of the new fiscal year as the Office of Sustainability and Climate. The offices are currently planning a three day meeting in early August to discuss next steps and how to work as one office. We are also looking for a director for our new office. Interested parties have until May 4th to apply via USA Jobs - <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/401598500>.
- **Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative:** The Department of the Interior (DOI), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recognized four collaborative landscape partnerships across the country where Federal agencies will focus efforts with partners to conserve and restore important lands and waters and make them more resilient to a changing climate. Building on existing collaborations, these Resilient Lands and Waters partnerships – located in southwest Florida, Hawaii, Washington and the Great Lakes region – will help build resilience in regions vulnerable to climate change and related challenges. They will also showcase the benefits of landscape-scale management approaches and help enhance the carbon storage capacity of these natural areas. More info [here](#).
- **USDA Climate Change Mitigation Strategy:** On April 23rd, 2015, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack unveiled a plan to help farmers, ranchers, and forest land owners respond to climate change. The framework consists of ten "building blocks" that span a range of technologies and practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon storage, and generate clean renewable energy (FS lead on 4 of 10). USDA will host a webinar on Wednesday, May 6th from 2 – 3 ET and the FS will follow up with a webinar the following week on the forestry building blocks. Details on both webinars will be sent from the Office of the Chief in a few days. Secretary Vilsack's speech and more details can be found [here](#).

USDA Climate Hubs Update

Randy Johnson, National Leader, USDA Climate Hubs

- The climate hubs are working in support of the Secretary's "Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry" and holding workshops to provide technical information and guidance to USDA field staff. Three regional workshops have already been proposed and approved and the remaining hub regions are working on their proposals now.
- Working on funding methods for Hubs into the future.
- Making progress on eXtension Ag/Climate Learning network, pilots in SE and NE.
- The Northern Plains Vulnerability Assessment will be published in the beginning of May and the Northeast Vulnerability Assessment will begin the first round of regional review next week.

Northeast Climate Science Center (NE CSC) Update

Toni Lyn Morelli, Program Manager, Northeast Climate Science Center

The NE CSC is having a very productive and exciting month, including:

- Working on collaboration with NEC hub. Stay tuned for next month's update. Review of personnel changes.
- Successful Mid-Term Review completed for t NE CSC.



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- Successful Annual Internal Science Meeting -Announcement of new University of Minnesota PI Linda Nagel - Linda has a leadership role in the Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change (ASCC) program -NE CSC scientists are finishing up the first draft of the climate synthesis for the northeastern and Midwestern SWAPs -Continue to collaborate on a scenario planning project with state and federal agencies, WCS, and universities across the northeast.
- Check out Frank Thompson's webinar from Wednesday on the NE CSC website: <http://necsc.umass.edu/>

Southeast Climate Science Center (SECSC) Update

Jerry McMahon, DOI, Director, Southeast Climate Science Center

- SWCSC organizational scenarios workshop held in April 2015 in Tucson. Large scale effort (pre-meeting interviews with 60 people; 30 participants at workshop) to refine an understanding of the SWCSC organizational identify and priorities. SECSC may do a similar effort in Fall 2015 and hope for Hub participation.
- I will participate in June 2015 strategic planning workshop with CLCC steering committee in Puerto Rico. Likely to be some overlap with Hub issues.
- Will be meeting with EBCI and USET at SECSC in June about SECSC-Tribal collaborations. Hope to have Hub participation in meeting. Steve McNulty and Raleigh FS group is looped in.
- SECSC will host Global Change Symposium at NCSU Talley Center 8/28/15. Internal NCSU focus on building awareness across campus of existing GC research and opportunities for collaboration, especially across disciplines. Hope for Hub involvement.
- I will update LCC coordinators this afternoon about SECSC-funded SECAS project this afternoon. The PPT will be available and could be a future FFACCTs. I'd be glad to give this briefing over summer as part of First Friday session.

Station Updates

Kier Klepzig, Assistant Director for Research, Southern Research Station (SRS)

- John Stanturf made a presentation at the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and attended the Bonn Challenge Roundtable (March 18-21). John is participating in a collaborative project entitled "Inspire, Support, and Mobilize Forest and Landscape Restoration" between the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), funded by the German Ministry of Environment (BMU). The group of IUFRO scientists has developed a framework to demonstrate how FLR can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The scientists assembled a list of mitigation and adaptation activities relevant to FLR and evaluated 15 case studies of forest restoration from around the world for their actual or potential contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley was developed as the USA Case Study. Deputy Chief NFS Leslie Weldon and Chris French, Deputy Director Forest Management, NFS were at the GPFLR and Roundtable as the official US delegation.
- Jim Vose is serving as a guest editor for a special issue of Forests: Forest Management and Water Resources in the Anthropocene.

Dave Hollinger, Project Leader, Climate, Fire, and Carbon Cycle Science, Northern Research Station (NRS)

- Dave was delayed by travel. No update for today.



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National Forest System Updates

Patricia Butler, R9/Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science-Eastern Region & the Northern Forests Sub Hub

- Publications
 - NIACS recently published a sixth forest ecosystem vulnerability assessment as a product of the Climate Change Response Framework, focusing on forests in the Central Appalachians region. Information on current forest conditions, observed climate trends, projected climate changes, and impacts on forest ecosystems was considered by a multidisciplinary panel of scientists, land managers, and academics in order to assess climate-related vulnerability of nine forest ecosystems. Download the report at www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/47885.
 - The Vulnerability Assessment was published by the Midwest Hub (including ag and forest lands); <http://climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/Midwest%20Region%20Vulnerability%20Assessment%202015.pdf> The Northeast one is being finalized.
- Workshops:
 - NIACS and the Environmental Research Center at West Virginia University hosted a workshop focused on climate change impacts and adaptation for West Virginia forests. The 2-day workshop in mid-April brought together nearly 40 natural resource managers from across the Central Appalachians region. Four teams used the adaptation workbook for incorporating climate change into a variety of projects.
 - NIACS and the University of Connecticut hosted a workshop, which included 6 teams working on a variety of projects focused on oak-pine systems in southern New England.
- NIACS has been working with partners to integrate climate change into the upcoming revisions of State Forest Action Plans and State Wildlife Action Plans. We're working with Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry to plan this year's meeting of the state forest planners in early June (i.e. NAASF Forest Resource Planning Committee) which will focus on climate change and developing a white paper to support climate change integration into the Forest Action Plans. We're also working with the Northeast Climate Science Center to provide resources related to vulnerability assessments and adaptation for integration into the State Wildlife Action Plans.
- The Adaptation Workbook is now online as a web-based tool for natural resource professionals. The new website is an online edition of the [Adaptation Workbook](#), previously published in [Forest Adaptation Resources: Climate change tools and approaches for land managers](#). This step-by-step process was designed to help people consider climate change at the scale of their own management decisions and design their own customized adaptation actions.
- Kailey Marcinkowski of NIACS has been working with the U.S. Navy to integrate climate change education into standard training events for Navy natural resource planners.

Emrys Treasure, R8, Biological Scientist, SRS-Threat Center, Raleigh

- Work with the Francis Marion National Forest (FMNF) and their process of revising their Land and Resource Management Plan can serve as a regional climate change response example. This work illustrates how the FMNF is working through science-management partnerships to apply the Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options ([TACCIMO](#)) web tool in their forest plan revision. Plan revision has been in progress for 2 years and the FMNF is approaching a major milestone. The initial phase for [assessment](#) of conditions on the forest is completed. Findings were then used to integrate climate change into a "[need to change](#)" document, which serves as a transition from the assessment to the forest plan development phase. The



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process is to identify key issues to integrate into the plan (draft link at the [website](#)) to help identify management strategies for climate change. These strategies are under discussion with potential partners for incorporation into the draft plan, and also form the basis for monitoring program development and how to manage into the future. Strategy development with partners is focused especially on restoration and monitoring needs. The final plan will integrate the concepts of multi-scale monitoring and adaptive management as a way to dynamically respond to forest changes caused by a changing climate as described in the [proposed management strategies](#).

- Mary Morrison, Forest Planner R8, Francis Marion & Sumter NF, welcomes feedback on the plan and activities.

Presentation

“***SPRUCE: Spruce and Peatland Responses Under Climatic and Environmental Change Experiment***” by **Randy Kolka**, Team Leader and Research Soil Scientist with the USDA Forest Service’s Northern Research Station.

Q&A

Round Robin Discussion

Access Relay Conference Captioning for this event was through the link below:

<http://www.fedrcc.us//Enter.aspx?EventID=2597904&CustomerID=321>

The next FFACCTs will take place **June 5, 2015** with a presentation by **Jake Weltzin**, US Geological Survey, Status and Trends Program. See <http://www.forestthreats.org/news/upcoming-events/ffaccts> for details.

Please send comments, feedback, and presentation suggestions to Stephanie Worley Firley, Eastern Threat Center, (sworleyfirley@fs.fed.us) and visit the [FFACCTs webpage](#) for additional information.